

racters which would tend still further to render its isolation desirable. It may be known from the other Madeiran *Trichopterygidæ* by, *inter alia*, its excessively diminutive size, and the form of its prothorax,—which has its sides greatly (and equally) rounded, and its hinder angles obtuse and not at all produced. There can be no doubt that it is identical with the European *T. abbreviatella*, though my Madeiran specimens are perhaps a trifle darker than British ones in my possession. They were detected abundantly by Mr. Bewicke and myself, in December 1858, amongst dead leaves and vegetable refuse, in his garden at the Palmeira—and also, subsequently, beneath decaying bundles of the sugar-cane at the Praia Formosa—near Funchal. And a single example was captured at S. Antonio da Serra, by Mr. Bewicke, during the summer of 1859.

[To be continued.]

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#### BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

*A Guide to the Quadrupeds and Reptiles of Europe; with Descriptions of all the Species: compiled from the Latest Writers.* By Lord CLERMONT. London: John Van Voorst, 1859. Post 8vo.

It is now, we believe, generally admitted that the British Islands possess no peculiar indigens belonging to the Animal or Vegetable Kingdoms. Instances there are, certainly (such as *Spiranthes gemipara* among Flowering-Plants, and *Tetrao scoticus* among Birds), of species not at present known to occur elsewhere; but when the fauna of Europe has been thoroughly investigated, these and similar exceptions will in all probability be found to be more satisfactorily classed as localized varieties of more widely distributed species. Such being the case, it seems obvious that we can hardly arrive at a perfect knowledge of the British Fauna and Flora without studying the Fauna and Flora of the larger area in which it is comprised. A general acquaintance with the whole is necessary to a particular knowledge of the part. It is for this reason that we receive with pleasure every attempt (such as that made by Lord Clermont in the present work) to enlarge the much too generally restricted range of the views of the 'British Naturalist,' and to induce him to pay some attention to the objects found in other portions of Europe, instead of confining himself entirely to such as happen to occur in the little corner of it which his nation occupies. "*Philosophus non habet patriam*" is a maxim which the English student of nature seems to be especially prone to forget. Numerous as are the works which have been published in this country upon the Mammals, Birds, Reptiles, and Fishes of Great Britain, we are not aware of a single book written in the English language upon the Vertebrates of Europe generally, or any section of them. Our authorities on European

Mammals are Blasius and Schinz; on Birds, Temminck, Schlegel, and Degland; on Reptiles and Fishes, Schinz and Bonaparte.

We begin to hope, however, that we are "progressing" (*Americanicè*) a little in this as well as in other respects. Besides the present work on the Mammals and Reptiles of Europe, the publication and, we believe, extended sale of Mr. Bree's 'Birds of Europe not observed in the British Isles,' show that our ornithologists are extending their views; and the numerous papers contributed to 'The Ibis' on the ornithology of different portions of the European area give further evidence in the same direction.

Again, out of the crowds of English tourists who annually scatter themselves over the face of Europe, many probably have a taste for natural history, or some wish to gain a general knowledge of the animals which they may meet with, provided the means be ready at hand. Lord Clermont's little book, the title of which we give above, offers them a clear and concise account of the species of two of the generally recognized divisions of vertebrated animals met with within the limits of our continent. The work is, as it is confessed to be in the preface, a compilation; but the descriptions are taken from the best authorities on the subject, and useful notes on the habits, localities, and distribution of the species in different countries are added. It might be objected that the arrangement and nomenclature are in some respects a little old-fashioned, and that it would have been better if the author had followed Blasius rather more closely in one division of his work, and Duméril and Bibron less closely in another. But such minor objections hardly detract from the general merit of the book, and we hope that the noble author will meet with such encouragement as may induce him to issue 'Guides' to the other divisions of European Vertebrates, compiled in a similar manner, equally convenient as travelling companions for the tourist and as handy books of reference for the student.

*A Manual of the Subkingdom Protozoa, with a General Introduction to the Principles of Zoology.* By JOSEPH REAY GREENE, B.A., Professor of Natural History in Queen's College, Cork. London, 1858. Longmans. 12mo.

THIS little volume is the first of a series of manuals to be published under the superintendence of Professors Galbraith and Haughton, and intended for the use of students. There can be little doubt that in Zoology, at any rate, an English Handbook for students is at present a desideratum; and if the remaining sections of the Animal Kingdom are treated of by Professor Greene as ably as the very difficult subject to which the volume before us is devoted, this series of manuals will go far to supply this deficiency in our scientific literature. At the same time we fear that the conditions of a student's text-book have hardly been realized with sufficient care in the publication of this manual. When we look forward over the space to be covered by subsequent volumes, and compare it with that occupied by

the one now under consideration, we cannot but think that the entire series will be too bulky for the ordinary student; and the cost will certainly be considerable.

The General Introduction to the Principles of Zoology occupies about twenty pages, and, although necessarily brief, is written in a sound and philosophical spirit. Our author is evidently a disciple of the most advanced school of zoology; but he treats disputed questions with great fairness, and evidently allows due weight to the arguments on both sides.

In his treatment of the group to which the present manual is especially devoted, Professor Greene exhibits the same characteristics: he has with great care brought together all the well-established information that we possess upon the Protozoa, and at the same time indicated where our knowledge is defective. The most recent contributions to the history of these minute organisms have been consulted by the author, and their leading results embodied in his work; and the student will be greatly assisted in his investigations by a well-selected and classified bibliographical list, including the most important works and papers published on the different groups of Protozoa.

The groups admitted by Professor Greene are as follows:—

1. *Rhizopoda*, under which we find an analysis of the classifications of D'Orbigny and Schultze, the latter with the equivalents of the groups in D'Orbigny's system, both of which, however, the author justly characterizes as "premature;"
2. *Polycystinæ*;
3. *Spongidae* (for which we should have preferred the term *Porifera*);
4. *Thalassicollidæ*, to which the *Acanthometræ* of J. Müller are appended;
5. *Gregarinidæ*, including *Prorospermia*; and,
6. *Infusoria*, as to the nature of which Professor Greene adopts the view put forward by Lachmann and Carter in papers published in this Journal. The curious and problematical genus *Noctiluca* is described under the last-mentioned group, of which it is possibly an aberrant member.

In conclusion, we have much pleasure in recommending Professor Greene's Manual as a guide to those who are engaged in the study of zoology, and we can only hope that the succeeding volumes may be published fast enough to prevent a new edition of the first being necessary before the concluding one makes its appearance.

*Letters from Alabama, chiefly relating to Natural History.* By PHILIP HENRY GOSSE, F.R.S. 12mo. London: Morgan and Chase, 1859.

MR. GOSSE informs us that his object in visiting the little known State of Alabama was partly to establish a school in one of the rural districts, and partly to take advantage of his position to investigate the natural history of that part of the world. The little book to which we now call the attention of our readers is the result of this expedition.

It consists of a series of letters, which we may remark *en passant*

appeared singly in a periodical called the 'Home Friend,' and commences with an account of the author's outward voyage and of his journey up the Alabama River to his destination, in the course of which he found opportunities of making numerous observations on the natural history of the country traversed, which are described, as usual with Mr. Gosse, in a pleasant, lively style. Mr. Gosse then gives us a short account of the nature of his scholastic duties, and afterwards a history of his proceedings in the out-of-the-way locality where he took up his abode for seven or eight months, which includes a great many interesting observations on the natural history of the district, and especially on its entomology, described in an agreeable, gossiping manner. Interspersed with these, we find numerous characteristic remarks on the mode of life of the rough-and-ready southern planters amongst whom our author found himself located, their field sports, and their dexterity with the rifle. The *institution* also comes in for its share of notice, and, as may be expected, is not mentioned with any favour. The little work is illustrated with several nicely executed woodcuts, and is altogether a pleasing contribution to the stock of popular Natural History literature.

## PROCEEDINGS OF LEARNED SOCIETIES.

### ROYAL SOCIETY.

Dec. 15, 1859.—Sir Benjamin C. Brodie, Bart., President, in the Chair.

“Note respecting the Circulation of Gasteropodous Mollusca and the supposed Aquiferous Apparatus of the Lamellibranchiata.” By M. H. Lacaze Duthiers.

A memoir upon the aquiferous system and the oviducts of Lamellibranchiate Mollusks by Messrs. Rolleston and Robertson, was read before the Royal Society at the Meeting on the 3rd of February, 1859. The abstract of this memoir, contained in the 'Annals and Magazine of Natural History,' reached me in the month of July; and I was not a little surprised to find that a structure which I had so elaborately studied in the course of my various journeys to the sea-shore, and which I had carefully described in a number of species, was something quite different from what I had imagined it to be. Without entering into minute anatomical details, which would not tend to elucidate the question, I find that Messrs. Rolleston and Robertson consider that the organs, the ducts, and the orifices supposed to be the ovaries or their excretory ducts, are, in fact, nothing but an aquiferous apparatus, and that the openings placed on each side of the foot are the excretory orifices of this system. They discover elsewhere the ducts whose office is to convey away the products of the genital glands. The enunciation of an opinion so opposed to what I, in common with many other authors, had maintained, seemed to require a recurrence to direct observation. But on repeating my examination of